

Funding Opportunity Announcement

FY22 Solar Technical Assistance Program

Program Description:	The program provides technical assistance for solar site surveys and to conduct preliminary development of solar projects.
Type of Program:	This program provides technical assistance, not funding. It is a non-competitive, first-come, first-served program.
Application Deadline:	April 15, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.
Eligible Applicants:	This program is only open to state agencies, public universities, community colleges, public schools, and local government entities (Counties/Cities/Municipalities) for projects that will be located on existing infrastructure.
Eligible Activities:	<p>This program provides the services listed under the “List of Services Available” (below). With rare exceptions, it does not provide technical assistance for the detailed design and construction of a specific project. The technical assistance is designed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conduct solar site assessments on government owned or controlled buildings and previously disturbed land,2. Where resiliency is needed, limited technical assistance may be available to help determine the sizing and rough design of a microgrid system,3. Provide detailed technical support for a limited set of specific engineering problems,4. Provide a limited set of data analytic services,5. Provide assistance for solar project reviews, or in certain circumstances, owner representative services.
Program Budget:	<p>MEA anticipates providing up to \$450,000 of technical assistance via the Maryland Environmental Service and its support contractors.</p> <p>Technical services are normally limited to about \$10,000 for an individual request or project. Requests that would exceed this limit will require additional justification (either with the application or after the technical assistance estimate is developed by MES).</p>

Minimum Criteria:

To be considered for technical assistance, the Applicant must submit a complete application which includes a discussion of:

1. The technical assistance required,
2. How the technical assistance report will be used (how it becomes a project),
3. Constraints that could limit solar location,
4. A description of the desired final deliverable.

In addition:

- The Applicant must submit required documents,
- The Applicant must sign a Letter of Agreement (with MEA), to provide access and information required to allow the technical assistance provider to do its job,
- Buildings and/or properties must be owned by a State or local government entity; or where the State or local government has more than 15 years left on its lease,
- Projects receiving funding under AOI-3 of the Public Facilities Solar Grant Program are not eligible for funding under the Solar Technical Assistance Program.

Review Process:

A review team, selected by the Program Manager and consisting of at least 3 members, will review the application and all supporting documents. If, in the opinion of the reviewers, the project meets the minimum criteria specified above and makes a compelling case for funding, the members will recommend the project for funding. If a majority of the review team determines that the minimum criteria is met, but the Applicant does not make a compelling case for funding, the project will not be recommended for funding. Each recommendation to not fund a project that meets minimum criteria will automatically be reviewed by the Director, Energy Programs.

Projects recommended for funding will be sent to the Maryland Environmental Service for matching with one or more contractors and to receive a quote for service. If the MEA Program Manager accepts the quote, a copy of the Letter of Agreement is sent to the Applicant for signature. Once signed, the work will commence,

Partial awards:

MEA may adjust the requested services if they exceed the scope of the program or would cause a quote that would exceed the \$10,000 limit for technical assistance. MEA will normally confer with the Applicant and MES before making a major adjustment to the scope of requested services.

Required Application Documents:

- A completed application,
- A cover letter describing the technical assistance requested, and any factors that should be considered to provide a scope of the request.

- A site map showing the location of the building(s) and property that should be considered. An image from Google Earth © is preferred, however a digital/print photograph is acceptable. As appropriate, include a photo of any issue that should be specifically considered as part of the technical assistance.
- Evidence of the Applicant's control of the project site for at least 15 years, normally in the form of a recorded deed or other appropriate documentation (as determined by MEA).
- A statement that the Applicant is committed to sign the Letter of Agreement with MEA for the provision of access and required information.
- IRS Form W-9 for the Applicant.

Submission Instructions: MEA encourages the use of electronic applications to streamline processing and reduce environmental impacts. If you cannot apply electronically, please contact MEA no later than seven (7) days prior to the application deadline to identify an alternative method to submit the application.

The application spreadsheet and required documents should be submitted electronically to MEA via email to: **solar.mea@maryland.gov**. If specifically authorized by MEA, the Applicant should mail the supporting documents to:

Maryland Energy Administration
Attn: Public Facility Solar Grant Program
1800 Washington Blvd. Suite 755
Baltimore, MD 21230

Program-specific Requirements:

GENERAL PROGRAM CONSTRUCT

MEA has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Maryland Environmental Services (MES) to provide technical assistance for the siting and preliminary development of solar projects. For projects accepted under this program, MEA will coordinate with MES for the provision of Technical Assistance by MES or by specialty contractors selected by MES and MEA. MEA will fund this assistance. The request for technical assistance must come from a person in the Applicant's organization with the authority to submit a subsequent solar project for consideration in the agency's budget and energy plan.

DATA REQUESTS

To ensure that necessary data is provided to MES (or its contractors), the requesting agency/entity will be requested to sign a Letter of Agreement with MEA for the provision of required data. The required data should already be available to the requesting agency and should not require new research or cost (beyond the time and effort needed to collect the existing data).

LIST OF SERVICES AVAILABLE

1. Public and Private Building and Site Solar Assessment

- a) Identify and inventory public or private properties to determine which properties are owned by a State or local government entity, or where the State or local government has more than 15 years left on its lease.
- b) Conduct an initial triage of buildings identified using satellite and other photographic means to determine solar access of the roof and the grounds immediately surrounding the building. Evaluation may include the use of a single solar array (or multiple solar arrays) for multiple co-located buildings.
- c) Propose a list of buildings and sites that deserve further review, including a description of each project proposed and rationale for its recommendation or exclusion. Review the list with MEA and identify projects to receive further review.
- d) Conduct an on-site inspection of the identified projects and further refine the list to projects worthy of further consideration. The on-site inspections will include:
 - Use of a Solmetric SunEye 210 (or equivalent) to evaluate the solar resource,
 - Assessment of nearby vegetation to determine if /when encroachment on the solar resource would be expected,
 - Coordination with the applicable building owner/operator to determine the condition of the roof and the approximate date for roof replacement,
 - Visual evaluations of the roof supports to determine if repair or augmentation would be required,
 - Propose a solar system for use on the building(s), and
 - Identification of percentage of the building's energy usage to be supplied by the proposed solar system.
- e) Provide a report to MEA and any partners identified by the agency. Evaluations for each state agency will be provided to the agency upon request. The report shall be indexed by the building owner/ operator and will recommend or not recommend individual projects. For projects being recommended, the report should include the SunEye pictures, an estimate of the building(s) annual energy usage as well as an estimate of the proposed solar array's output using PVWATTS, or other solar array energy estimating program.

2. Microgrid/Resiliency Hub Technical Support

- a) Provide consulting support to assist microgrid and resiliency hub developers identify the required loads and size an appropriately sized system to last a specified period of time while independent from the grid.
- b) Provide expert level support for microgrid design, support, and control, to include system integration and control system software. Assist with integrating solar, battery, and control

system, into a productive microgrid capable of islanding from, and operating independent of, the electric grid.

3. Technical Support for Solar Siting. Design and Engineering

a) Provide consulting support to assist solar developers with geology for solar canopies and ground mounted systems.

b) Provide engineering support to analyze building structures for improvements necessary to allow for proposed solar and battery installation.

c) Where designated by MEA, provide reviews of documents, bids, plans, project financials and other information provided related to a specific project or portfolio of projects.

4. Analytics

a) Provide data analytic services as needed to include GIS mapping, Energy modeling (overtime), Financials (to include ROI and NPV)

5. Solar Project Review and Owner Representative Services

a) Assist in the development of procurement documents, specifications, and other information necessary for a public or private organization to develop requests for proposals or task orders,

b) Review proposals provided to public or private organizations by solar providers including a review of the pro-forma, financials, design and projected energy generation of specific projects and other aspects of the design or financing.

c) Provide supplemental reviews of information, design changes and other aspects of the project through the system's construction and commissioning.

Questions can be directed to:

David Comis, Energy Program Manager

David.Comis@Maryland.gov

410-537-4064 (w) or 443-908-1743 (c)

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